

**Compression film bandage after leg vein sclerotherapy: Two weeks versus four weeks wearing.**

Ragg JC, Despa OR, Stoyanova K, El-Chamali S, Brüggemann U, Grzelachowski S, Ragg DC  
angioclinic® Vein Centers - Interventional Phlebology, Berlin - Munich – Zurich, Germany/Switzerland

Background: Compression stockings or bandages are not suitable for continuous wearing. In spite of these media, results of sclerotherapy are often unsatisfactory, due to inflammations, residuals and stainings. A novel compression film bandage (CFB) now underwent evaluation of two weeks versus four weeks of wearing.

Methods: In this prospective and randomized study, 450 eligible legs with superficial varicosities, 5 - 16 mm Ø, mean 7.9 mm Ø (354 patients, 23 – 74 yr/o) were included in the study. CFB (prototype 3M/Venartis Inc.) was applied immediately after foam sclerotherapy and worn continuously.

Randomization: 6 groups with equal diameter distribution (+/- 0.3 mm): CFB for 14 or 28 days with a renewal after 14 d, CFB plus compression stocking German class 2 for 14 or 28 days day over, and compression stocking alone day over for 14 or 28 days. Follow-up examinations including ultrasound and photography were performed after 2, 4 and 8 weeks.

Results: During 8 week follow-up, symptomatic inflammations, residuals or stainings indurations were observed in the compression stocking group in 62.5% (14 d) versus 51.3% (28 d). Using CFB, inflammatory symptoms were reduced to 9.3% (14 d) versus 4.7% (28 d). CFB combined with compression stocking was more effective comfortable (score 6.0 – 6.5) than compression stocking alone, with non-significant difference between 14 and 28 days of wearing.

Conclusions: Four weeks of CFB wearing are more effective to prevent inflammatory symptoms or residuals than two weeks, but the benefit was more relevant for cases with very large target vein diameters (> 8 mm). The same issue applies to combination of CFB with MCS.